

A CALL OF THE HOUR

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, our beloved General Secretary, on behalf of the Central Committee of the party, has given a call to the people to rise to the occasion at this critical juncture our country has arrived.

The following is the text of the call :

- * UNITE TO RESIST COMMUNAL, CASTEIST, PAROCHIAL AND SECESSIONIST FORCES
- * RESTORE, PRESERVE AND EXTEND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS, NORMS, VALUES AND SECULARISM
- * BUILD UP UNITED DEMOCRATIC MIGHTY MASS MOVEMENT ON BURNING ISSUES AND DEMANDING JOB AND EDUCATION FOR ALL.

In the considered opinion of the Central Committee of our party, the Socialist Unity Centre of India, the democratic movement of the country is faced with the grave danger of return to power at the Centre of the Congress(I), the main enemy of the people and the most trusted agent of the ruling capitalist class, which after having been rejected by the people in the last elections has seized full advantage of the fall of the N.F. Government headed by V. P. Singh and helped the minority Janata Dal(S) of Chandra Shekhar to come to power—which for all practical purpose, is nothing but a Cong.(I) government by proxy.

The Central Committee wants to remind the people that in its bid to extend the lease of life of moribund capitalism, the Cong.(I), while in power, both at the Centre and in the states, always burdened the life of the common people with more and more taxes, increasing prices of all essential commodities, hike in fare and freight, the so-called New Education Policy to deprive the bulk of the population from education and mounting pressure of unemployment — leading to grinding poverty and misery of the common people. Moreover, in order to divert the people's attention from the real to a fake one and forestall the growth of any united mass movement against the savage capitalist exploitation and oppression, the Cong.(I), by using even the police and administration, created an explosive situation by fanning up all sorts of communalism, casteism, parochialism and secessionism which led to fratricidal bloodbath. In all this the Cong.(I) has been the main architect and played greater role than the traditional fundamentalist and fissiparous forces. It is the Cong.(I) which placated the Muslim fundamentalist forces in the

Shah Bano case in order to garner the Muslim votes. Again, it was this very Cong.(I) which sought to further its narrow electoral interest by keeping alive the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute and fomenting Hindu communalism through appeasing the Hindu fundamentalist organisations like the VHP and allowing them to perform 'Shilanyas' at the disputed site in Ayodhya, even though it was the BJP which reaped dividend out of it and increased most unexpectedly its tally of seats in the Lok Sabha to 86 from 2. This record of the Cong.(I) makes it clear that in the interest of democratic movement and people's cause, the dangerous possibility of the Cong.(I)'s return to power must be resisted at all costs by the secular, progressive and democratic minded people of the country.

It cannot be denied that the defeat of the Cong.(I) in the last election and the formation of the N. F. government at the Centre created high hopes in the people that the domestic and foreign policies of the new government would make a definite departure from those of its previous government. But this expectation was belied by subsequent experience and

the N. F. Government became riven with group squabbles and lost for power of some of its top-most leaders to the utter dismay and disillusionment of the people.

The BJP which was emboldened by its unexpected electoral gain and the dependence of the N.F. government on its support, took a calculated Hindu communal posture and right from the beginning started pressurising the Government over issues like Kashmir or Ram Janmabhoomi or some such. As a part of this deliberate scheme to incite Hindu communal frenzy, the BJP undertook the programme of Rathayatra on the issue of building of the Ram Mandir which vitiated the atmosphere of the country and led to an outbreak of communal riots. Belatedly, when the Rathayatra was banned and the BJP leaders were arrested, the BJP withdrew its support which led to the fall of the N.F. Government. The Central Committee is of the opinion that there was no question of principle involved in the BJP's withdrawal of support from the N.F. Government. It was an unprincipled act against people's interest which only helped the Cong.(I) which eagerly had been waiting for just such an opportunity.

On the other hand, the Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal's attempt to consolidate his vote-bank by defending the interest of the rich peasants and Prime Minister V. P. Singh's declaration of 27 p.c. reservation for the backward communities as a counter-scheme, only helped generate blind fanaticism among the anti-reservationist students and youths in particular and people of different castes and communities in general, which was manifested in the most painful incidents of self-immolation. It is to be noted that Mr. V. P. Singh declared this policy of reservation at a time when there was a moratorium on recruitment in the Central government

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UTUC (L S) attends WFTU Conference In Moscow

The Second World Trade Union Conference was held in Moscow from 13th to 20th November last at the call of World Federation of Trade Unions. A five-member delegation of the UTUC-(LS) led by Comrade Shankar Singh, Vice-President of the organisation, participated in the Conference. The other members were Comrade Tapas Dutta, General Secretary, and Comrade Suresh Dasgupta, Comrade Fatik Ghosh and Comrade Gian Singh, members of the Secretariat.

More than one thousand representatives of one hundred and thirty-two countries participated in it. Four Commissions were formed to discuss the following issues: (1) Development of international economic aid, (2) Technology, employment and training, (3) Peace, disarmament, (4) Trade Union rights. In the discussions of the Commissions Comrades Shankar Singh, Tapas Dutta, Suresh Dasgupta and Fatik Ghosh participated.

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Dastardly murder of Three Comrades in WB by CPI(M) criminals

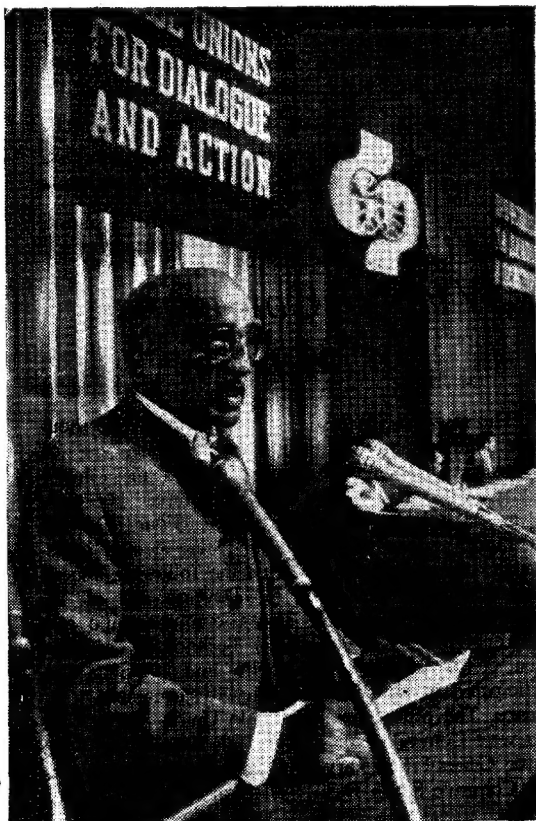
Three SUCI workers—Comrade Yakub Molla, Comrade Toab Ali Molla and Comrade Ahad Ali Laskar were brutally killed while Comrade Hazrat Sheikh, Comrade Jalil Molla and Comrade Abu Taleb Molla were critically injured in broad day light by a large gang of armed CPI(M) criminals led by Khoda Baksh, a CPI(M) panchayat pradhan. A notorious state-level CPI(M) leader is directly behind in chalking this murderous plan. The butchery was perpetrated on 14th December last and the place again was Jaynagar, where our party has built up its base amidst fierce class struggle. The rural bourgeoisie during the L.F. rule have opied for CPI(M) shelter leaving temporarily the Congress-

(I) one at Jaynagar and Kulti, and with the overt backing of the administration and police have been attacking and killing our leaders and organisers. On the very day the brutal murders were committed, Mr. Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister, had been speaking at another part of the same district, being surrounded by the band of criminals, who killed 7 of our valuable comrades last year there. Only a few weeks back an SUCI worker was killed by the police in lockup.

The people of entire West Bengal condemned these ghastly incidents and observed protest day on 20th December last with deep emotion. People pledged anew to carry forward struggle with new vigour.

Comrade Shankar Singh at WFTU

Bold step against imperialism-capitalism urged



Comrade Shankar Singh addressing the 12th World TU Conference, Moscow.

Comrade President, members of the Presidium, Delegates and Participants,

On behalf of the organisation I represent here, the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) of India, I thank all of you. I thank particularly the AUCCTU, the Trade Union organisation of USSR acting as hosts to this Congress.

This Congress of WFTU is being held at a time when the working class movement of the world, we find, is faced with a serious crisis—the crisis of line. In many of those countries where working class is still being ground under ruthless capitalist exploitation and is suffering from continuously increasing burden of poverty, unemployment, insecurity in life and other hardships the trade union movement, in most cases to-day, is deeply engrossed in economism, legalism and various other kinds of opportunism and has lost to a great extent its militant class character while in many other cases has allowed itself to be converted virtually into a kind of appendage of the ruling capitalist class.

In many of those countries where working class by carrying forward its class struggle against capitalist-imperialist-fascist exploitation and rule could once achieve political power in its hand and establish socialism, the leadership of those countries today appear, to be engaged in reforming the socialist order of economy and politics of their countries, dismantling the socialist structures and replacing

those by such forms which bear features of capitalism. Through this historic Congress of the WFTU we like to ask the working class of those countries to deeply ponder over the possible perilous consequences of this and rise to the occasion to act boldly in defence of socialism in their lands.

Perestroika, the programme of such reforms by proposing, in the name of 'new thinking', aban-

donment of class struggle itself in the so-called interest of survival of humanity has only made confusions worst confounded. Since Perestroika seeks to view each and every question from a non-working class approach there should be no question of working class militant organisation like W.F.T.U. supporting it.

We hold that talking of international co-operation, development, security etc. not from the class viewpoint of the working class but in general terms will only weaken the working class movement and serve the interest of the world capitalists-imperialists and

neo-colonialists. At this point I cannot resist the temptation of quoting the great leader of the working class Lenin who said: Let the liars and hypocrites hoodwink the people with talks of freedom and democracy in general. We say to the workers — ask these liars — freedom from which class and for which other class, democracy of which class and against which other class?

Boosted by this weakness of the working class movement in capitalist countries as well as the confusions and dismantling of socialism in erstwhile socialist countries of East Europe and even

in the Soviet Union the imperialists-capitalists to-day have assumed a belligerent posture against the people in general and working people in particular. The situation demands that the working class movement be freed from these weaknesses and deformities forthwith. Responding to this historic necessity the WFTU must take a bold step forward by giving a clarion call to the working class of the world to unite its rank and organise actions against the capitalist-imperialist attacks on the interests and rights of the working people as well as against democracy, independence and socialism.

Long live international solidarity of the working class!

Long live WFTU!!

Comrade Tapas Dutta Flays Perestroika at WFTU Conference

Comrade Chairman, Members of the Presidium and Delegates,

Revolutionary greetings to you all, congratulation to the host and organisers of this Congress.

The 12th World Trade Union Congress is taking place at a time when all-out onslaught of capitalism and imperialism against the working people is on the increase and the working class movement is beset with internal and external attacks. The situation demands of Congress to provide concrete guidelines to the Trade Unions so that they as true leaders of working class in their respective countries can fulfil their obligations towards the working class internationalism and international working class movement. With this expectation, I like to pass over to dwell upon, not all, as I am bound by time limit, but a few points which have been dealt with in the main draft document placed for the consideration and approval of the Congress. I hope, you would ponder over the points.

(1) In so many places of the draft document, the reform programme undertaken in the USSR and some East European countries have been appreciated and trade unions have been urged to stand by the reforms. Before appreciating, in our opinion, the reforms in question should have been critically examined which have not been done here. Our organisation has examined the reforms dispassionately and has come to the conclusion that the reforms undertaken in these countries are directed towards the restoration of capitalism which

is the main enemy of the working class. Naturally, trade unions can neither appreciate nor stand by these reforms.

(2) Pointing out at the crisis from which these countries have been suffering for a long time the document has opined that they have resorted to the revolutionary renewal of the whole system of social relations with the primary aim of building a qualitatively new society with a view to coming out from the crisis. We all know that the system and society of these countries were socialist. Now any qualitative change in it will

surely lead either to communism or take it back to capitalism. The developments that have been taking place in these countries proved beyond doubt that a qualitative change has led the society back to capitalism instead of communism thus completing the process of counter-revolutionary revival of capitalist production relation. The question is: can restoration of capitalist system solve the crisis from which the USSR and some East European nations had been suffering? The problems of inflation, price rise, unemployment, stagnation, emergence of parasitic elements and elements of social corrosion, moral and cultural pollution and corruptions etc. had no doubt seriously affected the socio-economic-political life of these countries even according to the official admission. Students of social science know it very well that these ills are the ills of capitalist economic law. Hence, it is easily understandable that qualitative change over to capitalism cannot solve the problems which are its own creation.

(3) Comrades! It is true that these ills had been there causing deep

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United people's movement the only alternative

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offices and public undertakings, when a policy of computerisation of and emphasis on capital-intensive industries instead of labour-intensive ones was in force and when lay-offs, lockouts retrenchments were further squeezing the job opportunities. Under the circumstances, the mere declaration of a policy of job reservation—without first doing away with these above mentioned policies and adopting instead a proper policy of industrialisation to create new job opportunities—can be considered as nothing but a 'paper declaration' aimed at deceiving the people, rousing caste feelings and creating a vote bank on caste basis. This policy proved disastrous for the unity of the people just as the BJP's

design to create a Hindu vote bank for their own petty parliamentary end. It shows that people's unity and the true concept of secularism—meaning neither encouragement of nor encroachment upon the religious belief of an individual as well as the recognition of equal rights of both believers and non-believers, by the State—is being sacrificed by each and every bourgeois political party or combination of parties for their narrow parliamentary interest.

The Central Committee is constrained to observe that in this situation, instead of taking effective steps to protect the interest of the people, the CPI(M) and the Left alliance led by it have also become engaged in this bourgeois parliamentary game for self

and power and have in one instance after another, betrayed their cause. It is for this reason that instead of building up people's movement against the anti-people policies of the N. F. Government, the CPI(M) extended full support to them. Similarly, on the issue of Rathayatra the CPI(M) shelved its so-called adherence to secular principles, capitulated to BJP's pressure politics and allowed safe passage to the Rathayatra in the State where it is in power, i.e. in West Bengal, leading to the outbreak of communal riots in Jhalda town in Purulia and Pilkhana area in Howrah of West Bengal. Again, immediately before the fall of the N. F. Government, its leader frantically tried to anyhow reach a compromise with the BJP leaders on the one hand and even with Rajiv Gandhi on the other. In continuation of the same power politics it has now entered into an alliance with the N.F.

with a view to projecting yet another bourgeois alternative blessed by the capitalist class, compete with the Cong.(I) and the BJP for share of power and gain maximum advantage in the next election while paying lip service to secularism and people's cause. It is high time the honest rank and file members and supporting masses of these parties paused and pondered over this deceptive role of their leadership and turned their face towards the arena of democratic movement. It must be realised that it is this opportunist role of the CPI(M) and its allies that hindered the development on a countrywide basis. In its absence, the political atmosphere of the country became more and more vitiated through the intrigues and counter-intrigues of the bourgeois and social democratic parties, resulting finally in the collapse of the N.F. Government and providing a ready handle to the Cong.(I) to prop up to power, at the Centre as

well as in states like Gujarat and U.P. governments completely dependent upon it, and thereby clear the grounds for staging a comeback through yet another expensive Lok Sabha election at a convenient time, the burden of which have to be borne by the people.

The Central Committee firmly believes that under the circumstances the foremost task is to build up a countrywide mighty democratic mass movement demanding 'job for all' and 'education for all' and on other burning economic issues and democratic demands by uniting all Left, democratic and secular parties and forces with a common agreed programme and code of conduct and build up—in order to lead all these movements to their logical end—people's own instruments of struggle—people's committees and a strong volunteer corps from the grassroots level and thus give birth to people's own
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Comrade Mukherjee addresses activists of four states

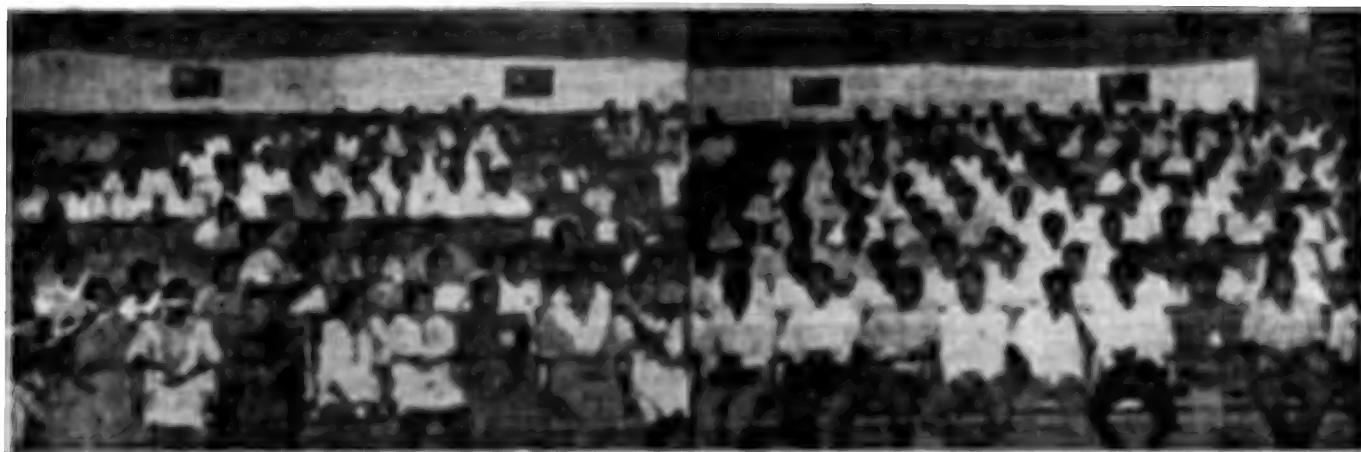
In a joint general body meeting of the members of SUCI belonging to Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry on 13th Nov. in Madras at Swami Sankaradas Auditorium Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of the SUCI dealt at length on the recent developments in the Soviet Union, East European countries, and the Middle East, on the belligerent attitude of the US imperialists, the counter-revo-

lutionary design of Perestroika and Glasnost of Gorbachev and the coming summit of US and Soviet Presidents. He cautioned about the impending danger of a military conflagration and called upon the peace loving people of the world to build up militant peace movement.

Turning to the national situation, particularly the recent developments—formation of Chandra-Shekhar Government with the backing of Congress-

(I), he opined that it would be nothing but a Congress(I) government by proxy.

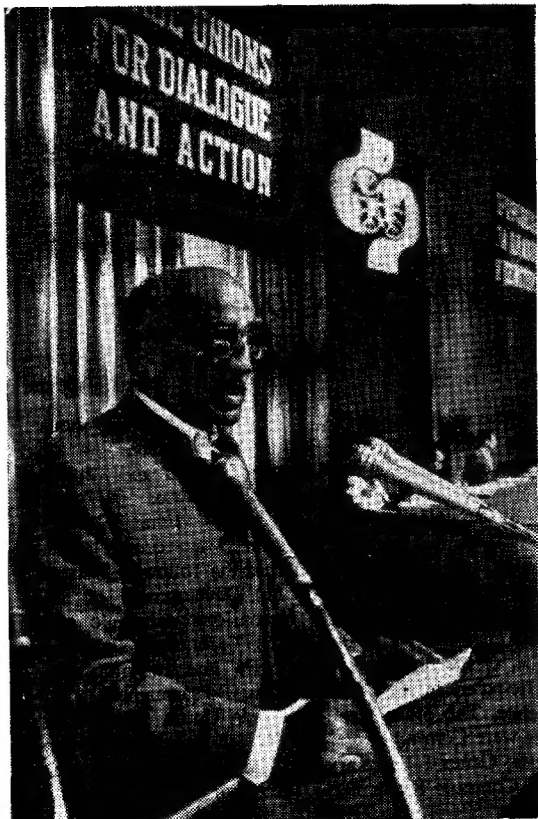
Comrade Nihar Mukherjee urged the secular and democratic forces and well-meaning people to unitedly develop countrywide mass movement to foil the sinister design of Congress(I) and to resist casteist, communal and secessionist forces and save the country from fratricidal blood-bath and ruin.



Comrade Nihar Mukherjee (above) addressing the joint General Body meeting in Madras on 13th November last.

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